

REMARKS

This document is being filed in response to the election/restriction requirement mailed on May 15, 2003. In that correspondence, the Examiner identified three distinct species in claims 1-7, 8-15, and 16-22 and required the applicant to elect a single disclosed species on the basis of the corresponding claims, and "indicate to the Examiner which of the claims 1-22 read on the elected claims of the disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable." The Examiner further stated that no claim is considered generic.

The applicants hereby elect claims 16-22 for examination. The applicants believe that independent claim 16 is generic over non-elected claims 1-7 and 8-15, as well as being generic over its corresponding dependent claims. Should the Examiner reach the same conclusion that claim 16 is generic and that it is allowable, the applicants respectfully request consideration of the non-elected claims.

The applicants are also adding herewith new claims 23-29. These newly added claims are method claims that have limitations that correspond to those of the elected claims 16-22. Therefore, these newly added claims may be considered and examined in conjunction with the elected claims 16-22. A check to cover payment for these newly added claims, along with the payment for the extension of time fee, is included along with this response and preliminary amendment. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

The applicants note that they have changed attorneys. The new correspondence address for this application should be Customer No. 00500 (Seed Intellectual Property Law Group) at the address below:

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC  
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300  
Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone: (206) 622-4900  
Fax: (206) 682-6031

Communications regarding this application should be directed to Dennis M. de Guzman (Reg. No. 41,702). The undersigned attorney will file a Power of Attorney in due course. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner verify that the Seed address has been placed on record before mailing the next communication and to contact the undersigned attorney

if the proper correspondence address is still unclear by the time the next communication needs to be mailed.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger K. Brooks et al.

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. de Guzman", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis M. de Guzman  
Registration No. 41,702

DMD:wt

Enclosure:

Postcard

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